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CHENNAI Edition ■VOL 03■ Issue 198 Local 03.11.2026 Out Station 04.11.2026 Price Rs.3/ Email: newindiaflash@gmail.com

Welfare assistance worth Rs 1,110 crore for women's self-help groups

Chief Minister Vijay presents it for public use





ERODE: Chief Minister Vijay is set to participate in a government event near Perundurai, where he will distribute welfare assistance worth Rs. 1,110 crore to women's self&help groups from 13 districts. For this purpose, he arrived in Coimbatore from Chennai today via a chartered flight.

At the Coimbatore airport, he was welcomed by ministers, government officials, the Municipal Commissioner, and the District Collector. Following this, he departed from the airport by road toward Perundurai in Erode district. Barricades have been set up along both sides of the route the Chief Minister is taking. Police personnel have been deployed at various points to ensure that the public and youth do not enter the roadway. Security surveillance has also been intensified in the areas between Coimbatore Airport and Neelambur. Over a thousand police personnel have been deployed for security duties in Coimbatore district alone in light of the Chief Minister's visit. In addition to the local Coimbatore police, reinforcements from Tiruppur, Erode, Namakkal, and other districts were brought in last night. Furthermore, personnel from the Coimbatore City Armed Reserve, Home Guards, and special police units have been assigned to security tasks. After concluding the government event in Perundurai, the Chief Minister is expected to return to Coimbatore Airport by road around 5:00 PM today, from where he will fly back to Chennai on a chartered flight.

The government event, which the Chief Minister is attending, was initially scheduled to be held at the Kongu Engineering College in Perundurai. Preparations—including the construction of a stage, the setup of a helipad, and the implementation of security arrangements—had been underway there for over a week. However, the venue was suddenly changed yesterday. The event, originally planned for Kongu Engineering College, has been shifted to the Lakshmi Narayana Wedding Hall in Kanchikovil.

District Collector Kandasamy and District Superintendent of Police Kiran Shruti inspected the new venue and have further strengthened the security arrangements. The police have stated that while the venue for the event has been changed, there is no alteration to the Chief Minister's planned road route. Previously, it was announced that over 4,500 police personnel would be deployed for security in connection with the Chief Minister's visit.

At this event, welfare assistance—including bank loans—will be provided to approximately 4,000 women's self&help groups (SHGs) from 13 districts, including Erode, Karur, Tiruppur, Namakkal, Coimbatore, and Salem. The total value of the assistance to be distributed is reported to be Rs. 1,110 crore, with around 5,000 beneficiaries set to receive support.

These loans are intended to help the women's self&help groups achieve economic progress and expand their businesses. Furthermore, the Chief Minister will inaugurate various completed development projects in the Erode district.

Consequently, the event will encompass both the distribution of welfare assistance and the inauguration of government development projects.

₹35.79 Crore Disproportionate Assets Case: Enforcement Directorate Summons C. Vijayabaskar and His Wife!

CHENNAI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a second summons to former Tamil Nadu Health Minister and current TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam) Pudukkottai District Organizing Secretary, C. Vijayabaskar, and his wife, V. Ramya, directing them to appear in person. The investigation concerns the accumulation of assets disproportionate to their known sources of income, valued at approximately ₹35.79 crore.

According to ED sources, either C. Vijayabaskar or his wife, Ramya, is required to appear for questioning this coming Friday at the ED's zonal office located in Shastri Bhavan, Chennai. Separate summons have been issued, with instructions for the other individual to appear the following week. It is understood that they will be questioned in detail regarding property documents, bank transactions, and investments. During the AIADMK regime from 2016 to 2021, C. Vijayabaskar served as the Minister for Health.

Allegations arose that he had misused his official position to amass wealth beyond his known sources of income. Based on this, the Tamil Nadu Directorate of Vigilance and Anti&Corruption (DVAC) registered a case against him in 2021. Following an investigation, the DVAC filed a charge sheet in May 2023, stating that Vijayabaskar had accumulated assets worth ₹35.79 crore that could not be accounted for.



Following the case initiated by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti&Corruption, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has also registered a separate case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). ED officials conducted surprise raids at the residence of Vijayabaskar in Illuppur, Pudukkottai district, as well as at other locations linked to him.

In response to an initial summons issued in 2024, Vijayabaskar and his wife had previously appeared in person to provide explanations, and their statements were recorded. Based on additional documents that have since surfaced, this new summons has been issued for a second round of questioning. On his part, Vijayabaskar maintains that the allegations against him are politically motivated and asserts that he will contest these cases legally.

The upcoming inquiry, scheduled to take place this Friday at the ED's Chennai office, has drawn significant attention within the political sphere.



The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari addressing at the MoU signing ceremony between MoRT&H and the Government of Bihar for the project 'Scientific Desilting of Water Bodies in Bihar and Utilization of Suitable Excavated Silt in National Highway Projects' at Hotel Taj Palace, in New Delhi

"CM distributes welfare schemes only in constituencies facing by- elections" – Palaniswami's criticism



CHENNAI:: "The Chief Minister visits only those constituencies where by&elections are expected, and distributes welfare aid there. He is essentially using these visits as a campaign for the by&elections," stated AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

Speaking to reporters at the Chennai airport, Palaniswami said, "The Chief Minister is responsible for all 234 constituencies in Tamil Nadu; he ought to visit every one of them. Instead, he focuses only on areas where by&elections are anticipated, distributing welfare assistance there. He is treating this as a campaign for the by&elections.

GST revenue in Tamil Nadu has declined. At this stage, the state's growth should be robust—many states that previously lagged behind have now seen significant progress. Given that Tamil Nadu is already a developed state, GST collections should have been higher; however, reports indicate a growth of only 3%." "This is due to the administrative failures of the current government.

Because this administration lacks competence, we are suffering a loss in GST revenue, which will severely impact the government's welfare schemes." "In the six months since this government took office, prices have skyrocketed. The costs of essential commodities—such as rice, sugar, lentils, and cooking oil—have risen by 40%. This has hit the poor and the middle class hard. The current administration is incapable of curbing price hikes. Under this leadership, the governance of Tamil Nadu has plummeted to its worst possible state," he added.

Young man kills 4 people in the same house and then dies by suicide; police investigating

BHOPAL: Police are investigating an incident in Madhya Pradesh where a man killed four members of his family at their home before taking his own life. Narendra Sahu (35), a resident of Malikhedi near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, attacked and killed his mother Saraswati (50), wife Somlata (29), daughter Keerthi (10), and son Kush (6) using a sharp weapon. Following this, he went to a nearby railway track and died by suicide by jumping in front of a moving train. The police have registered a case and are conducting an investigation into the incident.

Rowdy murdered with face disfigured in Madurai; 5 arrested



MADURAI: Police have arrested five individuals in connection with the murder of a rowdy, whose face was disfigured during the attack. The Samayanallur police received information that a young man had been found murdered—with his face disfigured—inside a Panchayat Union building near the Samayanallur bus stand. Upon receiving the report, police arrived at the scene to identify the victim. The investigation revealed that the deceased was 26&year&old Surya, an individual linked to over ten criminal cases. The police then launched an inquiry to identify the perpetrators and the motive behind the murder. The investigation uncovered that Surya was killed on Sunday night while consuming alcohol with his friends. It is alleged that following an altercation with a man named Ashwin, a group of five—including Ashwin—brutally attacked and killed Surya. Acting on evidence from CCTV footage, a special police team tracked down and arrested the five suspects—Ajay, Vishnu, Selvakumar, Ashwin, and Chandru—within 12 hours. The incident, in which a rowdy was murdered following a dispute with his friends while drinking, has caused a stir in the area.

Steps Taken to Recover 2.30 Acres of Leased Land Belonging to the Senganmaleeswarar Temple in Thiruporur

CHENNAI: A press release issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu states the following: Under the instructions of the Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE), steps are being taken to recover 2.30 acres of land belonging to the Arulmigu Senganmaleeswarar Temple, located in the Thiruporur Taluk of Chengalpattu District. It was discovered that Nambiraj, who had leased the temple land, violated the terms of the lease agreement.

Without the permission of the temple administration and in contravention of legal regulations, he constructed over 50 shops on the property and illegally sublet them. Complaints were raised regarding these actions, which were deemed detrimental to the interests of the temple. Upon bringing this matter to the attention of the HR&CE Minister, directives were issued to take appropriate action. Consequently, given that the lessee had violated the terms of the lease, a notice has been served cancelling the lease and demanding the handover of the property back to the temple. Following this, on November 2, 2026, acting under the Minister's orders, a team led by Additional Commissioner Rathna—assisted by land surveyors—began a comprehensive survey of the temple land. This process aims to precisely identify the boundaries of the temple&owned property and facilitate its recovery. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department continues to undertake efforts to protect temple assets, remove encroachments, and restore possession of such properties to the respective temples.



Today horoscope

You will swiftly complete pending tasks. Confusion will dissipate, and happiness will flourish within your family. You will take pride in the achievements of your children. You will successfully handle competition in business. Avoid getting into arguments at the workplace.

Happiness will prevail in your family. You may gain benefits through government-related matters. You might take on a new role or assignment. Close relatives and friends will reach out to you. Business will pick up momentum and yield reasonable profits. It is advisable to maintain a calm demeanor at the workplace.

You may benefit from maternal relatives. You will begin to spend frugally and start saving. You might renovate or expand your ancestral home. In a professional capacity, you will meet with influential individuals. Outstanding payments in your business will be recovered.

Money you have been expecting will arrive today. You will replace damaged household items with new ones, enhancing your home. Your professional standing will see an improvement. In business, you will successfully attract customers.

With the Moon positioned within your zodiac sign, your body heat may increase. Practice compromise within your family. You can expect moderate profits in business; ensure you give due importance to the opinions of your partners. At your workplace, a superior will offer praise.

Medical expenses related to your mother will decrease. Siblings will be supportive. You will find your mind drawn toward yoga and meditation. Outstanding dues will be recovered. At work, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks.

Money will arrive as expected. Childhood friends and relatives will be helpful. You may gain advantages through interactions with people who speak other languages. At your workplace, you will locate a document you had been searching for. In business, avoid making enemies.

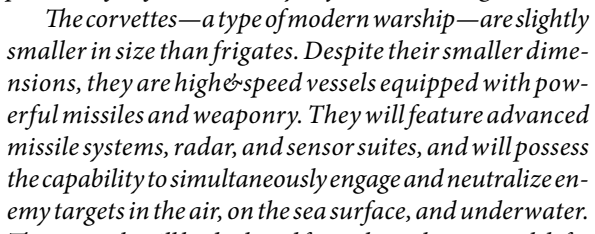
Trips to other towns or regions will prove profitable. Relatives and friends will begin to speak in your favor. You will receive assistance from influential individuals to expand your business. At your workplace, refrain from making any kind of commitment or promise to anyone.

Buying or selling houses and plots will prove profitable. Shedding any fatigue, you will embark on new ventures with enthusiasm. Ego-related issues will be resolved, leading to greater harmony between spouses. Business will yield moderate profits. It is advisable to maintain a calm demeanor at the workplace.

Tensions may arise between husband and wife; try to curb any impulsive temper. As you are under the influence of 'Chandrashtama' expenses may spiral out of control. Workload at the office will increase. In business, you may have to struggle to collect outstanding dues.

Long-standing problems will find solutions. You will command greater respect among your relatives. Be careful when handling gold ornaments At the workplace, you may be recommended for a new position.

A lively and cheerful atmosphere will prevail within the family. Cash flow will improve. Employees or subordinates will behave affectionately toward you. At the workplace, avoid interfering in others' affairs, and ensure you do not antagonize your superiors.



Rs 53,866 crore deal for 8 warships Ministry of Defence signs agreement with public sector undertakings

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract worth Rs 53,866 crore for the procurement of 8 next&generation warships, as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self&reliant India) initiative. To further strengthen self&reliance in the production of defence equipment, the Ministry of Defence has inked deals valued at Rs 53,866 crore to acquire 8 next&generation warships for the Indian Navy. Under this agreement, public sector shipyards—Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) and Goa Shipyard Limited—will construct 5 and 3 warships, respectively.

This marks the first warship project where the vessels have been designed indigenously by the Indian Navy, and the public sector shipyards have been selected through a competitive bidding process. This historic agreement was signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

The corvettes—a type of modern warship—are slightly smaller in size than frigates. Despite their smaller dimensions, they are high&speed vessels equipped with powerful missiles and weaponry. They will feature advanced missile systems, radar, and sensor suites, and will possess the capability to simultaneously engage and neutralize enemy targets in the air, on the sea surface, and underwater. These vessels will be deployed for tasks such as coastal defence, anti&submarine warfare, maritime surveillance, and the protection of commercial shipping lanes. With the Indian Navy currently operating between 18 and 24 corvettes, the addition of these 8 new warships will significantly bolster India's maritime security capabilities.

US Democrat Pooja Sethi Challenges Paxton to Condemn Anti-Indian American Slurs



USA: Indian&American Democratic candidate Pooja Sethi, running for the Texas House of Representatives, has publicly challenged Republican US Senate nominee Ken Paxton to condemn bigoted remarks made against Indian Americans by his party colleague Bo French. Sethi accused Paxton of seeking community support while remaining silent on the issue.

Sethi, who is contesting for Texas House District 47 in Austin, highlighted the controversy, stating, "Waiting for @KenPaxtonTX to condemn Bo French's bigoted attacks on Indian Americans. Or does that outrage disappear when he needs our votes?" This challenge came as reports surfaced of Paxton visiting a BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Irving, prompting criticism from community members like Vasant Bhatt, who questioned Paxton's sincerity in engaging with the community while associating with individuals making offensive remarks.

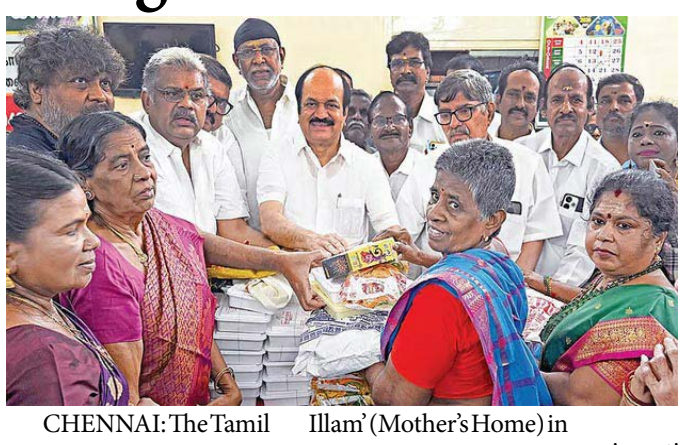
The controversy began on September 13, when Bo French, a Republican nominee for the Texas Railroad Commission, shared a photograph of University of Texas students, many of South Asian origin, celebrating a football victory.

French commented on the image, "I heard UT graduation this year looked like this. I didn't believe it. The problem is now obviously far worse than anyone imagined," a post that garnered over 54 million views.

While Paxton later condemned racism in general terms, he avoided directly naming French.

Sethi has integrated this issue into her campaign, emphasizing, "At a time when hate is on the rise, we have the opportunity to make history. We will not be intimidated. We will not be silenced. Hate has no home in Texas." If elected, Sethi would be the first South Asian woman to serve in the Texas Legislature. Polling stations in Texas are open for voting today, Tuesday.

No differences of opinion with the Congress: TMC leader G.K. Vasan clarifies



CHENNAI: The Tamil Maanila Congress (TMC) celebrated a 'Joyful Diwali with destitute women and the elderly' at the 'Annai Illam' (Mother's Home) in Kodambakkam yesterday. TMC leader G.K. Vasan and former Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar participated in the event and distributed Diwali gifts to the destitute elderly and women. Speaking to reporters afterward, G.K. Vasan stated: "The Tamil Nadu government's announcement to establish 28 new POCSO courts to investigate sexual offenses against women and children is a welcome development." - "The government has begun to act with an 'iron hand' to ensure that those who commit such crimes face severe punishment. Rising prices are an issue across all states." "In Tamil Nadu, measures are being taken to address this. Currently, the TMC supports the TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam). We will make an official announcement when the elections approach." "The Congress is part of the TVK alliance. There are no differences of opinion between the Congress and the TMC," he said.

Diwali: Supreme Court permits bursting of 'green crackers' in Delhi for 2 days





NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has granted permission to burst 'green crackers' for two days in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) on the occasion of the Diwali festival. A ban had previously been imposed on the manufacture, sale, and bursting of firecrackers in Delhi and the NCR to control air pollution.

Firecracker manufacturers and sellers had filed a case in the Supreme Court seeking a relaxation of this ban. A bench comprising Justices M.M. Sundresh and Prasanna B. Varale has now issued an order regarding this.

According to the order, permission has been granted to burst 'green crackers'—specifically those approved by the CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) and NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute)—on November 7 and 8. Accordingly, green crackers may be burst on November 7 from 6:00 AM to 7:00 AM, and on November 8 from 6:00 AM to 7:00 AM, as well as from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Furthermore, the judges have granted permission for the sale of approved 'green' firecrackers from November 4th to 6th.

A ban has been imposed on bursting firecrackers within a 300&meter radius of locations such as hospitals, educational institutions, and old&age homes.

The sale of firecrackers through online platforms has been prohibited. At the same time, the sale of unapproved green firecrackers, firecrackers containing barium, and 'series' crackers (garland&style firecrackers) remains banned. In their order, the judges stated that this temporary relaxation will conclude on November 8th, and a complete ban on firecrackers will come back into effect in Delhi and the NCR region starting November 9th.

Trump Warns US May Target Iran's Nuclear Facilities If No Deal Reached



USA: Former US President Donald Trump has indicated that the United States might target Iran's nuclear facilities if a diplomatic resolution is not achieved to end the ongoing tensions in West Asia. Speaking to Fox News, Trump asserted that American forces possess the capability to carry out such an operation swiftly, potentially "in literally one hour," while also suggesting a "very good chance" of reaching an agreement.

Trump stated that his administration had previously weakened Iran's military and nuclear capabilities. He emphasized that preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons remains a key objective, describing Tehran as a leading state sponsor of terrorism. Recalling past military actions, Trump mentioned directing operations to prevent Iran from developing nuclear arms, citing figures like Qasem Soleimani as examples of those no longer a threat. He claimed that Iran's military, including its navy, air force, and air defense systems, has been substantially weakened, with limited capacity to produce more missiles or drones. Trump clarified that the current situation is not an active war but warned that further military action could follow if Iran fails to agree. He stressed that the US negotiates from a position of strength, preferring a diplomatic settlement to avoid casualties.

These remarks follow reports of renewed US military activity targeting Iranian locations, including Qeshm Island, and come amidst claims by commentator Tucker Carlson that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was pressuring Trump regarding a potential strike on Iran's alleged underground nuclear facility at Pickaxe Mountain.



Municipal Commissioner Sameeran held discussions with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team—who have arrived at the municipal community welfare center in the Thiruvottiyur area—and inspected their equipment.

November 03 EDITORIAL – NEW INDIA FLASH *2026*

POLITICAL RALLIES OR AN ATTACK ON PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS?

Leaders Roar, Roads Choke, Traders Suffer!



In a democracy, political parties have every right to organise rallies, conferences and protests. But should these political activities come at the cost of ordinary people's livelihoods?

A massive rally organised by the INDIA bloc in Delhi reportedly brought traffic to a standstill and severely disrupted business. According to traders' associations, nearly 2.5 lakh shops and 25 major markets were affected, resulting in an estimated ₹11,000 crore disruption to trade in a single day.

For political leaders, a rally is a show of strength. For small traders, it can mean a day's income lost!

Who will compensate shopkeepers for their losses? Who will pay the daily wages of workers unable to reach their workplaces? Who will protect the livelihoods of street vendors, transport workers and middle&class families?

Disrupting commercial activities during the festive season is particularly damaging.

This concern applies to every political party, whether ruling or opposition. No political gathering should hold the public's daily life hostage.

Large political conferences should be organised away from busy commercial centres. Authorities must ensure uninterrupted traffic, emergency services and business activities.

Political leaders who claim to fight for the people must first respect their livelihoods.

A rally attended by lakhs may be a political success. But if it leaves a poor family's kitchen without food, it is a failure of democracy!

Politics must serve the people, not make them suffer!

– Editor,
Madurai Mani Newspaper

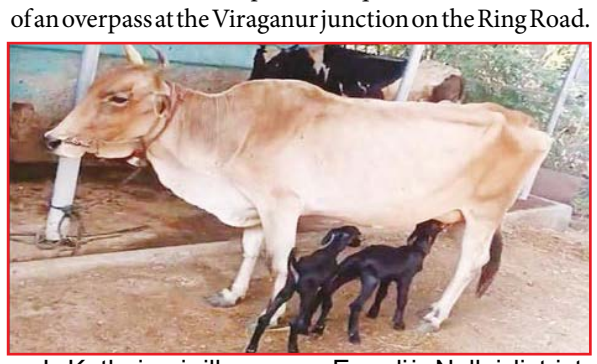
Demand for an Overpass at Viraganur Junction

Petition Submitted at Grievance Redressal Meeting

MADURAI: A petition was submitted at the grievance redressal meeting requesting the construction of an overpass at the Viraganur junction on the Ring Road to prevent traffic congestion and accidents. The Madurai District Grievance Redressal Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Collector Nishanth Krishna.

Attendees included District Revenue Officer (DRO) Anbazhagan, Personal Assistant Parthiban, Social Security Officer Ponraj, District Supply Officer (DSO) Rajaguru, and Deputy Director of Fisheries Kasinathapandian, among others. During the meeting, the Collector distributed two&wheelers equipped with refrigerated boxes—intended for the sale of fish—to 12 beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), with each unit valued at Rs. 75,000 (totaling Rs. 9 lakh). In a petition submitted by Rajkumar, a social activist from Panaiyur, it was noted that five roads converge at the Viraganur junction on the Ring Road. A large volume of traffic flows through these five roads daily between 5:00 AM and 11:00 PM.

The junction experiences constant traffic congestion, leading to delays, increased fuel consumption, and significant mental stress for both drivers and passengers. Furthermore, more than 20 accidents occur at this location every day. To address these issues, the petition requests the construction of an overpass at the Viraganur junction on the Ring Road.



In Kothaiseri village, near Ervadi in Nellai district, local residents are watching with amazement as a cow nurses some lambs.

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NCP leaders raise the banner of revolt against Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar

Complaint lodged in person with Union Minister Amit Shah

NEW DELHI: Senior leaders of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) have raised the banner of revolt against party leader and Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar.

They met with Union Minister Amit Shah in Delhi yesterday. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar currently holds the portfolios of Excise, Sports, and Youth Welfare. She has been urging Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to allocate the Finance portfolio—previously held by her husband, Ajit Pawar—to her. Furthermore, she is reportedly maneuvering to appoint her son, Parth Pawar, to the position of NCP party president.

Senior party leaders have expressed strong objections to these moves and have openly raised the banner of revolt.

Against this backdrop, senior NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) leaders—including Praful Patel, Sunil Tatkare, and Dhananjay Munde—met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi yesterday. It is understood that they held significant discussions regarding the issues surrounding Sunetra Pawar and her son, Parth Pawar.

We are left begging states for rice and lentils this is also a reason for the price rise

MADURAI: Tamil Nadu is not self&sufficient in the production of rice and pulses. Due to the impact of El Niño—which has caused erratic rainfall, droughts, and extreme heat—agricultural yields across India have declined, leading to a rise in the prices of rice, pulses, and various grocery items over the past few months. Velshankar, President of the Tamil Nadu Foodgrain Merchants Association, stated: "We rely on North Indian states for pigeon peas (tur dal), black gram (urad dal), and green gram (moong dal). Only a small quantity of black gram is produced in Thanjavur. To keep prices in check, the Central government permits imports.

Over the last three months, the prices of these commodities have increased by up to ₹1,000 per quintal (100 kg). We procure these goods from North Indian states and sell them here at a slightly higher price; there is no scope for hoarding stock to sell at inflated prices later. Previously, we used to procure whole pigeon peas and process them into split dal (dal); now, we purchase the split dal directly. Prices are determined by the North Indian states, not by Tamil Nadu.

Furthermore, the conflicts involving the US, Israel, and Iran, coupled with rising fuel prices, have served as indirect factors contributing to the price hikes. Spices such as coriander seeds, cumin, fennel, fenugreek, and mustard seeds are sourced from Gujarat; erratic rainfall is the primary reason for the price increases in these items as well.



Tamarind is sourced from Tumakuru in Karnataka and from rural areas within Tamil Nadu. Diwali is celebrated across India, and as demand rises, prices naturally increase. Compared to three months ago, the prices of various pulses have gone up. However, following the conclusion of Navaratri, Ayudha Puja, and Vijayadashami, the prices of black and white chickpeas (varieties of *sundal*) have seen a significant decline."

Green Gram (Moong Dal) // 95 // 114
Black Gram (Urad Dal) // 130 // 133
Bengal Gram (Chana Dal) // 87 // 98
Fenugreek // 85 // 96
Black Pepper // 750 // 810
Turmeric // 250 // 285
Tamarind // 120 // 120
Coriander Seeds // 170 // 190
Black Chickpeas // 85 // 78
White Chickpeas // 110 // 100
Cumin Seeds // 260 // 300
Fennel Seeds // 120 // 180
Mustard Seeds // 84 // 104

Rajendran, Secretary of the Madurai District Rice Mill Owners' Association, stated the following:

Although paddy production in Tamil Nadu is high, the fine&grain rice varieties preferred by the public are not readily available. Rice prices have risen due to inconsistent supply from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana. Previously, 'aged' (matured) rice of these varieties was sold at ₹65 per kg; however, due to a decline in supply, it has been retailing at ₹80 to ₹85 per kg for the past two months. In wholesale outlets, it was sold for up to ₹75 per kg.

With the current arrival of new&season rice from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the prices for fine&grain varieties—such as RNR, Akshaya, Ponni, Amman, and Sona—have remained stable. New&season rice, harvested around August&September, is currently available at ₹65 per kg, while varieties that have been aged for about a year are priced slightly higher. He added that prices are unlikely to increase further until Deepavali.

Price List: Items // Previous Month's Price (per kg) // November Price
Toor Dal (Split Pigeon Peas) // 124 // 148

No Plans to Increase Milk Prices Aavin Management Clarifies

CHENNAI: Following reports suggesting a potential hike in milk prices, the Aavin management has issued a clarification, urging the public not to believe unverified information.



Reports had emerged claiming that the Aavin management had recommended to the government an increase in milk prices by Rs. 5 per litre.

This proposed recommendation drew criticism from various political leaders, including PMK President Anbumani and AMMK General Secretary TTV Dhinakaran. In response to these reports, the Aavin management issued a statement clarifying the situation: "Reports have surfaced claiming that Aavin has recommended a price increase of Rs. 5 per litre to the government.

Keeping the public interest in mind, Aavin continues to provide high&quality milk and dairy products at reasonable prices." Aavin operates by balancing the interests of milk producers—including the procurement price paid to them—with the interests of the consumers.

The news circulating on social media regarding an increase in milk prices is false. Therefore, the public is advised not to believe such unverified information.



Punjab: Three suspended Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs from Punjab joined the BJP in Delhi yesterday. This marks a fresh setback for the ruling party ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

Price of Iceberg Lettuce Used in Soups and Salad Rises; Farmers Rejoice

NILAGIRI: In Kotagiri and its surrounding areas in the Nilgiris district, farmers cultivate a variety of hill vegetables—such as carrots, beetroots, cabbage, beans, cauliflower, and potatoes—across vast stretches of land. Additionally, in areas near Kotagiri—including Kookalthorai, Masakal, Theenatti, Kathavuthorai, and Elada—farmers also grow export-quality "English vegetables," such as zucchini, iceberg lettuce, celery, broccoli, leeks, and bok choy.

Because the procurement prices for traditional hill vegetables fluctuate unpredictably, often leading to losses, farmers have increasingly turned their interest toward



cultivating these English vegetables.

Kotagiri and its surrounding regions have experienced continuous rainfall over the past few weeks, which has helped the iceberg lettuce crops thrive. Farmers are also using handheld sprayers to apply treatments that protect the crops from diseases and pest infestations. Explaining the process, farmers noted that iceberg lettuce requires 70 days from planting to harvest. Some private companies facilitate this cultivation by providing the necessary seeds, seedlings, agricultural inputs, and protective treatments.

These companies also establish a stable minimum procurement price, ensuring that farmers are not negatively impacted regardless of whether market procurement prices rise or fall.

Furthermore, many farmers have chosen to purchase their own seeds independently, rather than relying on those provided by private firms. Over the last few weeks, the procurement price for iceberg lettuce has reached as high as ₹80 per kilogram. Currently, the purchase price has risen to Rs. 220 per kilogram.

The yield of iceberg lettuce has increased, bringing joy to the farmers. This vegetable is used in the preparation of salads and soups, and a large portion of the iceberg lettuce harvest is exported. With the purchase prices for 'English vegetables' (temperate-climate vegetables) seeing a significant upward trend, farmers who have cultivated them stand a good chance of making a profit.

Multiple-vehicle collision in Ulundurpet

KALLKURICHI: A series of collisions involving several vehicles in Ulundurpet has caused a major stir. Numerous buses operate daily from Chennai to the southern districts of Tamil Nadu, with a high frequency of express buses and private (omni) buses running, especially during the night.

Consequently, the national highway stretches in this region remain busy at all times.

Last night, on the Chennai&Trichy National Highway in Ulundurpet, three private (omni) buses and a goods lorry were involved in a chain&reaction collision.

The accident, which occurred near the government inspection bungalow, left 10 people—including one woman—severely injured; they have been sent to a hospital for medical treatment.

Upon receiving information, the police rushed to the scene and began an investigation into the cause of the accident.

Traffic on the Chennai&Trichy National Highway was disrupted for about an hour due to the incident. The police cleared the vehicles from the road and restored the flow of traffic.

Pakistan suffers a loss of Rs 3.3 lakh crore due to trade suspension with India

LAHORE: Noor Muhammad Kasuri, Chairman of the Pakistan&India Trade Council, has stated that Pakistan has incurred a loss of approximately Rs 3.3 lakh crore following the suspension of trade with India in 2019. In 2019, an attack carried out by terrorists from Pakistan in the Pulwama region of Kashmir resulted in the deaths of over 40 CRPF personnel. Following this, India suspended trade with Pakistan.

Regarding this, Noor Muhammad Kasuri, Chairman of the Pakistan&India Trade Council, remarked that the cessation of trade with India has cost Pakistan about Rs 3.3 lakh crore.

Specifically, Pakistani traders have been forced to import essential goods—such as sugar, fertilizers, cement, petroleum products, iron, and vegetables—from distant countries. This has led to an increase in transportation and freight costs.

By sourcing pharmaceutical products directly from India, this sector could save between 2 and 3 billion dollars annually. He stated that if the two nations—which share a common history, culture, and familial ties—were to resume trade, it would prove beneficial for businesses in both countries.

Fire breaks out at a delivery company warehouse; security guard dies from suffocation



CHENNAI: A private delivery company operated a warehouse in the Agaram area, near Peravallur, Chennai. Ramamoorthy, a resident of the Mathur area, worked as a security guard for the firm. This morning, a fire suddenly broke out at the warehouse, and thick black smoke began to billow out.

Upon noticing this, the security guard, Ramamoorthy, entered the warehouse. He became trapped in the dense smoke,

which led to suffocation, and he tragically passed away at the scene. Following the incident, fire crews from Sembium and Kolathur rushed to the location. They recovered the body of Ramamoorthy and sent it to the Periyar Nagar Government Hospital for a post-mortem examination. After an hour-long effort, the firefighters managed to completely extinguish the blaze. The Peravallur police have registered a case regarding the incident.

They are currently investigating to determine whether the fire was caused by an electrical short circuit or some other factor.

75 TASMAC Supervisors Suspended for Protesting by Closing Shops in Krishnagiri



KRISHNAGIRI: In Krishnagiri district, 75 TASMAC supervisors have been suspended for participating in a protest that involved closing down TASMAC liquor shops. A scheme for the return of empty liquor bottles has been implemented in TASMAC shops across Tamil Nadu.

Under this initiative, individuals who return empty liquor bottles are paid 10 rupees. To facilitate this, the government has mandated an additional charge of 10 rupees on the price of liquor. Furthermore, for purchases exceeding 1,000 rupees, the government has directed that payments be made via cashless transactions using QR codes. Staff have also been instructed to scan the empty liquor bottles upon their return. However, employees have raised concerns, stating that since only two scanning machines have been provided per shop, these new procedures are causing delays in sales and increasing the workload for the staff. The employees have demanded that personnel for the bottle&return process be hired through a private contracting firm, that additional scanning machines be provided, and that their job security and permanent employment status be ensured. Consequently, TASMAC staff had been on strike for the past two days. In Krishnagiri district, 387 employees across 110 shops participated in the protest. TASMAC Manager Chengiz Khan held discussions with them.

Subsequently, show&cause notices were issued to 110 supervisors the day before yesterday, and to another 25 supervisors yesterday, seeking an explanation for their actions. Meanwhile, last night, the TASMAC management suspended 75 supervisors. Sources within the TASMAC administration have indicated that if the shops do not open as usual today, further action will be taken against the remaining supervisors and sales staff. TASMAC employees expressed their distress, noting that the issuance of notices and the suspension of supervisors have led to growing dissatisfaction with the government.



The Sathuragiri Sundaramahalinga Swamy Temple is located in the Western Ghats. The Forest Department has granted permission for devotees to trek up the mountain to offer prayers at the temple for four days—from the 6th to the 9th of this month—coinciding with the occasions of Pradosham and Amavasya (new moon day).



In Thoothukudi district, in connection with two separate murder cases registered at different police stations, a total of seven individuals were sentenced yesterday: one was handed a double life sentence, while the other six were given life sentences.



State Wildlife Board Constituted Under the Chief Minister's Leadership: 32 Representatives Appointed



CHENNAI: A State Wildlife Board has been constituted with the Chief Minister as its Chairperson, comprising 32 appointed representatives. The Board is established in accordance with the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

This Board will provide counsel to the State Government on matters concerning wildlife conservation and forest management. It will advise the State Government on the selection of areas to be designated as national parks or wildlife sanctuaries, as well as on the management of such areas.

Furthermore, the Board will offer guidance to the government in formulating policies for the protection of wildlife and specific plant species. The Chief Minister of the state serves as the Chairperson of this Board.

Following the assumption of office by the new administration, the Tamil Nadu State Wildlife Board has been completely reconstituted.

Chief Minister Vijay has been appointed as the Chairperson, and the Minister for Forests, Ranjith Kumar, has been appointed as the Vice&Chairperson. Members representing the Legislative Assembly include MLAs M. Sudhakar (Katpadi), S. Karthikeyan (Madurai East), and M.R. Pallavi (Thiru.Vi.Ka. Nagar). Representatives from non&governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in wildlife and nature conservation have also been appointed as members.

These include Jose Louis from the Wildlife Trust of India (based in Noida), T.R. Shankar Raman, a senior scientist at the Nature Conservation Foundation (based in Mysuru), and Balaji Vedarajan from the Omkar Foundation (based in Thanjavur). Ten experts from fields including wildlife conservation, biology, and environmental research have been appointed as members. This is stated in the government order.

Indian Tourist Dies in Nepal Helicopter Crash, Chilling Video Emerges

KATHMANDU: An Indian tourist tragically lost his life and three others were injured after two helicopters collided mid&air during landing in Nepal's Solukhumbu district.

The incident, which occurred on Tuesday morning, involved aircraft operated by Air Dynasty and Fishtail Air.

The deceased has been identified as Vasanth Kumar Balaramaramadu, an Indian national traveling aboard the Fishtail Air helicopter. His body was transported to a medical facility in Lukla, as confirmed by Inspector Mausam Tamang of The Kathmandu Post.



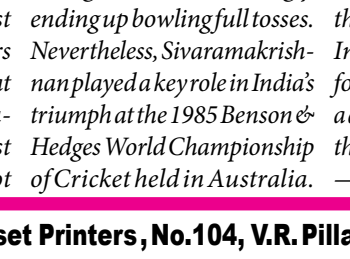
Another passenger, Shailesh Krishna Patel, a New Zealand citizen of Indian origin, sustained injuries and was airlifted to Mediciti Hospital in Kathmandu. Both helicopter pilots also received minor injuries and are undergoing treatment in Kathmandu.

The collision took place around 8:11 am at Pheriche, Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality, while both helicopters were attempting to land. CCTV footage of the accident has surfaced, showing the two aircraft drifting dangerously close before their rotor blades made contact. Authorities are still gathering details regarding the total number of passengers on board at the time of the impact.

L. Sivaramakrishnan becomes spin bowling coach at the Assam Cricket Association Academy

ASSAM: Former Indian leg&spinner Laxman Sivaramakrishnan has taken charge as the spin bowling coach at the ACA Academy. He will hold this position for one year, starting from November 2026. Based at the ACA Cricket Academy in Phulung, North Guwahati, he will oversee a structured training program designed for young and emerging spin bowlers. Born in Chennai on December 31, 1965, Sivaramakrishnan made his mark in cricket at a very young age.

As a 12&year&old, he drew attention by taking 7 wickets for just 2 runs in an inter&school match. During his debut for Tamil Nadu in the 1981&82 Ranji Trophy, he claimed 7 wickets for 28 runs in the second innings against Delhi. This exceptional leg&spin performance brought him into the national spotlight. Shortly thereafter, he made his debut for the Indian Test team at the age of just 17 years and 118 days—a feat that, at the time, made him the youngest Indian to debut in Test cricket. Although he did not



take any wickets in his maiden Test against the West Indies, he went on to showcase his talent in subsequent matches. The Test match against England in Mumbai during the 1984&85 series stands as one of the finest chapters of his cricketing career. In only his second Test match, he took 6 wickets in each innings—a total of 12 wickets for 181 runs. His exceptional bowling performance helped India secure an 8&wicket victory in that match. However, after claiming 18 wickets in the first three innings of that series, Sivaramakrishnan's form declined. As he grew taller, he struggled to land the ball in the right areas, increasingly ending up bowling full tosses. Nevertheless, Sivaramakrishnan played a key role in India's triumph at the 1985 Benson & Hedges World Championship of Cricket held in Australia. When the Indian team, led by Sunil Gavaskar, won the title, Sivaramakrishnan emerged as the tournament's leading wicket&taker.

His contribution was also vital to India's victory in the final against Pakistan.

In his international career, he took 26 wickets in 9 Test matches and 15 wickets in 16 ODIs. He achieved a five&wicket haul three times and a ten&wicket match haul once in Test cricket, with his best bowling figures being 6/64. In domestic cricket, he played for Tamil Nadu for a long period, taking 154 wickets across 76 first&class matches. His best bowling figures in first&class cricket were 7/28.

Sivaramakrishnan, who excelled at bowling leg&spin, googlies, and top&spin, embarked on a new journey as a cricket commentator after retiring from the sport. He made his debut in the commentary box during the 2000 Test match between India and Bangladesh and, for over two decades, became a distinctive voice in explaining the technical aspects of cricket—particularly the nuances of spin bowling. He also served as a player representative on the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee. In March 2026, Sivaramakrishnan announced his departure from the BCCI's panel of commentators. Since then, he has focused on sharing his experience with young spin bowlers. On October 18, he participated in a training camp at the Assam Cricket Academy, where he imparted the intricacies of leg&spin bowling to the young players. He has now officially taken on the role of spin&bowling coach at the same academy. Upon assuming this new position, Sivaramakrishnan stated that his objective is to develop spin bowlers who possess talent, a strong mental temperament, and, most importantly, the courage to fearlessly attack batters and take wickets. Having earned a spot in the Indian team at a young age and made a significant impact on the global stage with his leg&spin, Sivaramakrishnan now brings his extensive cricketing experience to directly coach the young spinners of Assam.



The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar at the inauguration of the Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 at Dilli Haat, INA, in New Delhi.

"Remove Adhav Arjuna from the Cabinet" Demand by BJP Spokesperson

HYDERABAD: N. V. Subhash, the chief spokesperson for the Telangana BJP, has demanded that Adhav Arjuna be removed from the Cabinet, following his call for a separate state flag for Tamil Nadu. Speaking on this matter, N. V. Subhash... Subhash stated, "How can a Tamil Nadu minister, Adhav Arjuna, demand a separate state flag? Tomorrow, he might go on to demand a separate currency, a separate Prime Minister, a separate constitution, and separate powers. India has already faced such a situation in the past.

Following independence in 1947, 550 princely states were integrated into India under the leadership of the then&Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel—a process that, in the case of the princely state of Hyderabad, involved bloodshed.

It took 16 months after 1947 for the princely state of Hyderabad to be integrated into the Indian Union under the Constitution of India.

Therefore, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demands that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu immediately remove Adhav Arjuna from the cabinet.



Furthermore, we urge the Tamil Nadu Police to initiate criminal proceedings against him and ensure he is imprisoned. Those holding constitutional or official positions must act responsibly and refrain from expressing views that threaten the nation's integrity or public peace.

A minister in Tamil Nadu, holding a significant official portfolio, should not make such statements." Earlier, while speaking at a 'Tamil Nadu Day' event held in Chennai on Sunday (November 1), Minister Adhav Arjuna had remarked, "Just as other states have their own individual state flags, Tamil Nadu should also have an official state flag centered on its Tamil identity. This flag should be hoisted with pride—alongside the national tricolor—on November 1 and July 18."

NSA Doval Meets Vietnamese President, Bolsters India-Vietnam Strategic Ties

NEW DELHI: National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval recently met Vietnamese President Tô Lâm in Hanoi, expressing gratitude for Vietnam's crucial role in advancing the India&Vietnam Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This high&level interaction underscores the growing warmth and strategic alignment between the two nations, particularly in the Indo&Pacific region.



The meeting highlighted the significant progress made in bilateral relations, which were formally elevated to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during President Lâm's visit to India earlier this year.

Doval conveyed greetings from the Indian Prime Minister, emphasizing India's commitment to deepening this vital partnership.

During his visit, NSA Doval engaged in a series of crucial discussions. He met with Vietnam's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Le Hoai Trung, to strategize for the upcoming 55th anniversary of diplomatic ties in 2027, envisioning joint celebrations that reflect the strong bond.

Further, Doval held talks with Senior Lieutenant General Luong Tam Quang, Minister of Public Security, focusing on enhancing security cooperation and expanding multifaceted engagement, a testament to the deep trust between the two countries.

Defence collaboration also featured prominently, with Doval meeting Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence, General Phan Van Giang. Both sides reviewed ongoing defence cooperation and pledged to intensify collaborative activities.

These engagements collectively reinforce the robust foundation of the India&Vietnam relationship, crucial for regional stability and economic prosperity.

Indian Navy Rescues Fishing Vessel and 20 Crew Members Hijacked Near Somalia

SOMALIA: The Indian Navy has successfully rescued a fishing vessel named 'Asini', which had been hijacked by armed pirates off the coast of Somalia. All 20 crew members on board were rescued safely and unharmed. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has commended the Indian Navy for this operation. According to the Indian Navy, a group of armed pirates had hijacked the fishing vessel last month.

They intended to use it as a 'mothership' to launch attacks on merchant vessels passing through the region. Recognizing the significant threat this posed to maritime security, the Indian Navy launched a rescue mission. Deploying a warship and a maritime surveillance aircraft, the Navy located and tracked the hijacked vessel. Through persistent surveillance and the application of firm yet non&violent tactics, the Navy managed to corner the vessel, preventing its escape.

A C&17 aircraft of the Indian Air Force was utilized in the operation, enabling the precise insertion of the Navy's special forces onto the vessel.

Acting with lightning speed, the naval commandos took control of the ship and neutralized the threat posed by the pirates, ensuring the safe rescue of all 20 crew members. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has praised the Indian Navy for this decisive operation. In a post on X regarding this, he stated: "Congratulations to the Indian



Navy for the successful rescue of 20 crew members from the fishing vessel 'Asini'—which had been hijacked by pirates in the Arabian Sea, 3,000 km away from Mumbai—following a coordinated 48&hour operation. With timely support from the Indian Air Force, the Indian Navy's swift action in locating, intercepting, and safely rescuing the vessel and its crew from armed pirates demonstrates its high level of operational readiness and its capability to take decisive action against maritime threats. Our brave personnel have once again proven India's capability, intent, and resolve to ensure stability, protect lives, and uphold maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

India remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring a secure maritime environment and a free, open, and safe Indian Ocean Region."

18 Government Officials Arrested for Accepting Bribes Across Tamil Nadu; Rs. 1.59 Crore Seized

CHENNAI: Throughout the month of October, the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti&Corruption (DVAC) arrested 18 officials across Tamil Nadu for accepting bribes and seized Rs. 1.59 crore from them. As part of ongoing, high&impact operations by the DVAC, corrupt officials are being arrested regularly across the state.

During a series of raids conducted in October, 18 government officials and employees were taken into custody for soliciting or accepting bribes. Those arrested include a wide range of government personnel, such as Village Administrative Officers, village assistants, commercial inspectors, health officials, revenue inspectors, bill collectors, an Additional District Fire Officer, and junior engineers. According to a press release issued by the DVAC, the raids conducted over the past month led to the seizure of Rs. 1.59 crore—a sum that includes unaccounted&for funds, such as those received via 'G&Pay' (digital payment) transactions. Furthermore, in four separate corruption cases, the courts have handed down prison sentences to government employees, with terms ranging from two to four years.

Printed at : Meera Offset Printers, No.104, V.R. Pillai street, Triplicane, Chennai. - 600 005. Published By. Dr. P. Pandiarajan No. 5 Namasivayam nagar 2nd street, Madurai. Editor : Dr.P.Pandiarajan